

ASSAY FOR YKL-40 AS A MARKER FOR DEGRADATION OF MAMMALIAN CONNECTIVE TISSUE MATRICES

ABSTRACT

[0161] The invention is a method of identifying the presence of a disease state in a
5 mammal which is associated with degradation of connective tissue in the mammal which
 contains the protein known as YKL-40. The method is a competitive immunoassay for
 YKL-40. It can be used, for example, to identify the presence of inflammatory or
 degenerative joint disease and tumor metastasis (to the extent it can be correlated to serum
 YKL-40 levels). Serum YKL-40 levels as detected and quantified by the inventive method
10 are also suggestive of the prognosis for the length of survival in breast cancer patients
 following recurrence and/or metastasis of their cancers.